

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01755 021641Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----000298 021642Z /64

O 021637Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1099
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01755

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MARR, UNSC, LE, IS, XF
SUBJECT: SIILASVUO-WEIZMAN MEETING MAY 1

REF: JERUSALEM 1228

1. MISSION IS EXTREMELY DISTURBED AT SUBSTANCE AND TIMING OF WEIZMAN'S REPORTED COMMENTS TO SIILASVUO REGARDING CHRISTIAN AREAS.
2. ON SUBSTANCE REPUTED COMMENT IS BOTH A SERIOUS DEPARTURE FROM PREVIOUS ISRAELI INDICATIONS AND WRONG, AS RESOLU-
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TION 425 CALLS SPECIFICALLY FOR WITHDRAWAL "FROM ALL
LEBANESE TERRITORY."

3. TIMING OF REPUTED REMARKS IS SPECTACULARLY UNFORTUNATE IN VIEW OF CURRENT EFFORT TO OBTAIN THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S INFORMAL ACQUIESCENCE TO INCREASE OF UNIFIL BY SOME 2,000 MEN. WE UNDERSTAND FROM ARAB SOURCES HERE THAT THEY

WOULD ACQUIESCE IN THE UNIFIL ENLARGEMENT ACTION WITHOUT A FORMAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL, BASED ON THEIR PERCEPTION OF THE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL PROGRESS AND WITHOUT, OF COURSE, ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE WEIZMAN STATEMENT. THE SOVIETS ARE PRONE TO ARGUMENT ABOUT ENLARGEMENT AND RESTRAINED ONLY BY ARAB ACQUIESCENCE. THE DELICATE BALANCE COULD EASILY BE BROKEN BY THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT. AS GOI FULLY AWARE, SUCH OBJECTIONS OR HESITATIONS AS EXIST CONCERNING UNIFIL ENLARGEMENT RELATE TO DOUBT ISRAEL INTENDS TO WITHDRAW FULLY FROM LEBANON. IF REMARKS OF WEIZMAN WERE TO REACH EARS OF SOVIETS OR ARABS, CHANCES OF OBTAINING AGREEMENT TO EXPANSION WOULD BE SEVERELY DAMAGED AND THE RISK OF AN SC RESOLUTION WHICH SIMPLY DEMANDS TOTAL AND IMMEDIATE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL GREATLY ENHANCED.

4. IF REPORT OF WEIZMAN'S REMARKS IS ACCURATE, HE IS EITHER FREE WHEELING IN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS AND IRRESPONSIBLE MANNER OR REVEALING AN ISRAELI POSITION WHICH WILL LEAD TO VERY SERIOUS TROUBLE INTER ALIA IN SC. WE SUGGEST DEPARTMENT CONSIDER BEST WAY (BEARING IN MIND NEED TO PROTECT CONGEN JERUSALEM'S RELATIONSHIP WITH SIILASVUO) OF LEAVING GOI IN NO DOUBT AS TO USG VIEWS ON REMARKS SUCH AS WEIZMAN IS REPORTED TO HAVE MADE.
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